

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21503

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UNGA FR OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS
WITH GOF

REFS: A. STATE 165910 B. STATE 170060

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS JULY 21 FOR USEFUL CONSULTATIONS ESSENTIALLY
DEVOTED TO AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH-SOUTH
DIALOGUE FOLLOW-UP. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR WELLS
AND DCM GAMMON, HELD CONSULTATION IN PARIS JULY 21
WITH AN IMPRESSIVE TEAM FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY,
HEADED BY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU AND INCLUDING
POLITICAL DIRECTOR LABOULAYE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
FROMENT-MEURICE, UN DIRECTOR LECOMPT, NORTH AFRICA AND
MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR CERLES AND ACTING AFRICAN AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR HAREL. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CONVERSATION WITH
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TAITTINGER REPORTED SEPTEL.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 21503 251738Z

2. AFRICA

AFTER OPENING COMPLIMENTARY EXCHANGES, SOUTOU SAID
FRENCH DOUBT THAT MUCH CAN BE DONE IN A PRACTICAL WAY
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FORTHCOMING
MEETING IN LAGOS ON APARTHEID. LABOULAYE ADDED THE
BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LAGOS CONFERENCE WOULD
EXPRESS THE EC-9'S STRONG CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID;

IT HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED WHETHER TO ANNOUNCE THAT MORE
PRECISE PRESSURES WILL BE APPLIED ON SOUTH AFRICA. HE
SAID A CODE OF CONDUCT IS DIFFICULT TO APPLY AND IT IS
NOW TOO LATE TO MODIFY FRENCH LEGISLATION IN ANTICI-
PATION OF THE LAGOS MEETING. YOUNG SUGGESTED VARIOUS
WAYS USG HAD FOUND TO INFLUENCE TOP AMERICAN EXECUTIVES
INVOLVED IN SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS TO
IMPLEMENT CODE OF CONDUCT. REGARDING THE HOPED-FOR
MEETING WITH SWAPO, THE FRENCH PARTICIPANTS STRONGLY
URGED YOUNG TO CONVEY TO WALDHEIM USG'S OPTIMISM ABOUT
THE PROSPECTS FOR THAT MEETING SO AS TO CONVINCE
WILDHEIM TO START MAKING PREPARATIONS. YOUNG ASKED
FRENCH VIEW ON POSSIBILITY OF RHODESIA BECOMING UNSC
RESPONSIBILITY. SOUTOU ANALYZED THE SOVIET OBJECTIVES
IN AFRICA AS ESSENTIALLY OPPORTUNISTIC AND THEREFORE
EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE WILLING TO
COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE SAME PURELY NOMINAL ROLE THEY
PLAY IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. ON
THE BASIS OF STATE 170060, YOUNG PROBED REGARDING FRENCH
ARRANGEMENTS IN DJIBOUTI. LABOULAYE EXPLAINED THAT
GOF HAS A DOZEN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH DJIBOUTI
GOVERNMENT, OF WHICH ONE IS MILITARY AGREEMENT, UNDER
WHICH 4,000 FRENCH TROOPS REMAINED TO TRAIN 500 DJIBOUTI
TROOPS. ALTHOUGH THIS FRENCH CONTINGENT WILL BE
THINNED OUT, DJIBOUTI KNOWS, AS DOES GOF, THAT THESE
TROOPS CONSTITUTE DETERRENT. LABOULAYE CALLED THIS
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 21503 251738Z

"AD HOC" SITUATION, WHICH DJIBOUTI WILL WANT
CONTINUED AS LONG AS SITUATION MERITS.

3. MIDDLE EAST

LABOULAYE SAID WALDHEIM IS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT ROLE HE
WOULD HAVE TO PLAY IN ANY RENEWED GENEVA CONFERENCE.
ON BASIS OF RHODESIA EXPERIENCE, YOUNG POINTED OUT
UTILITY OF GENEVA TALKS IN EDUCATING PUBLIC OPINION,
EVEN IF FIRST ROUND IS LARGELY PROCEDURAL. LABOULAYE
AGREED WITH THIS POINT; HE ADDED THAT THE ARAB LEADERS
HAVE BEEN MODERATE RECENTLY AND HAVE FAVORED GENEVA
TALKS BECAUSE OF THEIR FEAR OF BEING OVERTHROWN UNLESS
THEY SHOW SOME PROGRESS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION
SOON. SOUTOU ARGUED THAT USG BRIEF THE ARABS REGARDING
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT TO ALLAY THEIR
FEARS OF ISRAELI-US REPPROCHEMENT.

4. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE FOLLOW-UP

FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE HAD FOUND ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT
INTERESTED IN A POSSIBLE FUTURE FORUM SIMILAR TO
CIEC; ALGERIA'S PROBLEM IS HOW TO CONVINCE THE OTHER
LDCS THAT FORUM SMALL ENOUGH TO BE EFFECTIVE COULD

STILL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR INTERESTS. HE SAID, AS MINIMUM, MECHANISM OF TWO CO-CHAIRMEN MIGHT BE KEPT ALIVE, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CIEC RESOLUTIONS. ALGERIANS HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY WALDHEIM'S PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY AGENCY BUT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THIS -- LARGELY BECAUSE OF THEIR INTEREST IN SUCH ASPECTS AS NUCLEAR ENERGY -- AS LONG AS SUCH AN AGENCY WOULD NOT BE CONCERNED WITH PRICES. FROMENT-MEURICE CONCLUDED THAT THE IMPORTANT DEBATE WOULD BE IN UNCTAD REGARDING THE COMMON FUND AND STRONGLY URGED THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES PREPARE POSITIVE PROPOSALS WHICH WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY BE REJECTED. YOUNG EXPECTED THAT THE RESUMED 31ST UNGA WOULD EXPLORE POSSIBLE WAYS OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PARIS 21503 251738Z

CONTINUING THE NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE; USG WOULD NOT OPPOSE A SOUND PROPOSAL FOR SOMETHING OF THIS KIND WITHIN THE UN, PREFERABLY AS A SMALL GROUP. HE SAID USG WOULD TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE ENERGY AGENCY PROPOSAL, EVEN IF ONLY FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ENERGY CONSERVATION.

5. THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT CLEARED WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG.
HARTMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, PSOTENHAUER.

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